



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DEFENDANT SENTENCED FOR NARCOTICS IMPORTATION AND POSSESSION

Jury Trial Leads to Conviction and Sentencing in Scheme to Smuggle Ecstasy and Other Drugs Through Champlain Port of Entry

January 31, 2012

[Plattsburgh, New York]—United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian and United States Homeland Security Investigations Resident Agent in Charge, Rouses Point, Leroy Tario, announced today that TARA HAYNES, age 34, of Montreal, Quebec, was sentenced by United States District Court Judge Mae A. D’Agostino on January 30, 2012, to 188 months incarceration for conviction following of possession with attempt to distribute a controlled substance, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1), and attempted importation of a controlled substance, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 952 and 963. HAYNES was found guilty after a four day jury trial in Albany, New York.

The evidence at the trial established that HAYNES was arrested on June 2, 2011, when she attempted to enter the United States at the Champlain, New York, Port of Entry. Upon secondary inspection, over 70,000 tablets containing Methamphetamine, MDMA (also known as “Ecstasy”), and 5-methoxy-N, N-diisopropyltryptamine (also known as “Foxy Methoxy”) were found in the gas tank of the rental car HAYNES was driving. The value of these narcotics was later determined to be between \$500,000 and \$2.1 million.

The investigation was conducted by United States Homeland Security Investigations, Customs and Border Protection and the Clinton County Sheriff’s Department. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Julie S. Pfluger.

Any questions may be directed to Ms. Pfluger in Plattsburgh, New York at 518-314-7800.